



## NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

### Joint Information Center (JIC)

September 9, 2011, 10:30 a.m., CDT

**NEMA Media Contact:** Jodie Fawl, Public Information Officer, (402) 471-7428 [jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov](mailto:jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov)

**FEMA Media Contact:** (402) 479-3111

**SBA Media Contact:** (916) 878-1493

**Flood Hotline:** (855) 211-2453 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays

## Nebraska JIC Daily Update

# NEMA Continues to Monitor Flood Conditions

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is monitoring flood conditions along the Missouri and Platte rivers and providing assistance to local emergency management on a 24-hour basis.

**NEW NEMA's Flood Hotline** is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at **(855) 211-2453** until Sept. 16. The hotline will cease operation on Friday, Sept. 16. After that date, dial 511 for questions about road conditions or visit <http://www.511.nebraska.gov/atis/html/index.html>. Emergency Management questions can be directed to NEMA at (402) 471-7421

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER: Demolition of Structures May Jeopardize Future Federal Funding**

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) officials urge caution when taking some recovery actions following flooding that has affected the state this year. Federal funding could be jeopardized for any demolition work done prior to an environmental assessment. Without state, local and federal involvement, demolition of structures may result in ineligibility for some federal funds.

If you have any questions or concerns about the process of demolition to your property, please contact your local emergency manager ([List of County Emergency Managers](#)) or contact **Sheila Hascall**, state hazard mitigation officer, (402) 471-7217 or [sheila.hascall@nebraska.gov](mailto:sheila.hascall@nebraska.gov)

If you have any questions about the historic nature of your property please feel free to contact: **Jill Dolberg** review and compliance coordinator at the Nebraska State Historical Society, P.O. Box 8255, Lincoln, NE, 68501-2554; (402) 471-4773 or [jill.dolberg@nebraska.gov](mailto:jill.dolberg@nebraska.gov)

### **NEW Individuals Unemployed as a Direct Result of Flooding Receive Assistance**

**(Lincoln, Neb.)** – Governor Dave Heineman announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has amended the notice of a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Nebraska effective Sept. 7, 2011, to include three additional counties (Lincoln, Nemaha, and Richardson) for individual assistance and for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

DUA is available to eligible individuals as a result of a major disaster as declared by the President on August 12, 2011. **Applications for DUA must be filed within 30 days of this announcement. For the three Counties included in the amendment, the applications must be filed by Oct. 11, 2011.**

To be eligible for DUA benefits under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4013 - DR, individuals must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be an unemployed or self-employed worker whose unemployment was caused as a direct result of the major disaster declared by the President; **and**
- Must be a U.S. national or a qualified alien; **and**
- Must not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits from any state; **and**
- Must have worked or been self-employed in, or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in, one of the counties listed above; **and**
- Must establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income.

Also eligible to apply for DUA are individuals who:

- Can no longer work or perform services as a self-employed person because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of a disaster; **or**
- Cannot perform work or self-employment services because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster; **or**
- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household as a result of the natural disaster; **or**
- Cannot work or perform self-employment due to closure of a facility by the federal government.

To file for DUA, individuals will need their Social Security Number and the name and address of their last employer or prospective employer in the counties listed above. Applicants may be required to provide proof, within 21 days of filing their DUA claim, they were employed or self-employed in the counties listed above at the time the disaster occurred or were scheduled to begin (or resume) a job or self-employment when the disaster occurred. Individuals will need to provide proof of employment (pay stub, voucher, or earnings statement). Proof of Self-Employment may include federal income tax Form 1040; and Schedule C, F, or SE federal income tax returns for the most recent tax year; and proof of existence of the business.

Applications filed after Sept. 26, 2011, or Oct. 11, 2011, (for Lincoln, Nemaha and Richardson Counties) will be considered NOT timely filed. Individuals may generally receive up to 26 weeks of DUA benefits as long as his/her unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster. Eligibility for DUA benefits will be determined on a week-to-week basis.

Individuals who may be eligible for assistance must file a claim by calling the Nebraska Claims Center (NCC) at 402-458-2500, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM. The Interactive Phone System will ask “Are you filing for Disaster Unemployment Assistance?” By answering “Yes”, the applicant will be directed to a Claims Specialist who will provide assistance in filing a DUA claim. Applicants can expect long wait times on Monday between 8:00 AM and 12:00 noon.

DUA benefits are federally funded and are not paid from the state unemployment compensation trust fund.

Additional information is available at [www.dol.nebraska.gov](http://www.dol.nebraska.gov).



**FEMA**



## **NEW Letters from FEMA, SBA May Not be the Last Word**

**LINCOLN, Neb.** – After registering with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), disaster survivors receive a letter concerning the status of their application. The letter may not be the final word on whether or how much disaster assistance an applicant will receive.

They also may receive a letter from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). It will explain the next action to take to complete the loan, or to contact FEMA for other potential assistance.

Many FEMA applicants will receive a disaster loan application from SBA, which should be returned as soon as possible so that their recovery process can continue. Applicants for disaster assistance may qualify for temporary housing or home repair grants from FEMA or qualify for an SBA disaster loan for home repairs. The primary federal government source of disaster assistance is the SBA disaster housing loan, available for up to \$200,000 of uncompensated physical damage, which may be enough to cover the full cost of repair or replacement.

Loss of essential personal property such as clothing, furniture, appliances and vehicles is handled differently. An SBA personal property disaster loan is the primary source for uninsured personal property losses. Amounts up to \$40,000 of uncompensated loss are available.

Renters also are eligible for up to \$40,000 in SBA loans to cover their uncompensated losses of personal property.

Applicants who do not qualify for an SBA loan may be referred back to FEMA's Other Needs Assistance program where an additional grant may be available.

It is important for applicants to understand that information they provide when completing an SBA disaster loan application is used in determining what categories of assistance are available for them. Even if the applicant doesn't intend to accept an SBA loan, the information in the application is needed to qualify them for FEMA grants.

Insurance coverage, or the lack of coverage, is another critical determinant in FEMA assistance. The federal government cannot pay for losses covered by insurance. One common reason that applicants receive letters from FEMA is to request further insurance information. It may be necessary to provide copies of any policies that are held.

But just because an applicant has insurance doesn't mean they won't also qualify for FEMA help. Their application will remain open for a year in case they discover that their insurance does not cover all of their loss.

Other common reasons for letters include insufficient proof of ownership or occupancy, lack of evidence that that property was the primary residence at the time of the disaster or failure to sign essential documents. SBA applicants may receive a letter notifying them of loan withdrawal or decline. They should read the letter carefully because it contains details needed to continue processing or appeal a decline.

If any information in a letter from FEMA or the SBA is unclear, the recipient should immediately call the appropriate helpline for an explanation. The FEMA helpline is **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585**. SBA's Customer Service Center is **800-659-2955**.

FEMA and SBA representatives also will be found at Disaster Recovery Centers. They are usually able to explain the current status of a person's application.

## Disaster Recovery Centers

### **NEW Disaster Recovery Center at Blair to Cease Saturday Operation**

The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) operated by the state of Nebraska, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in Blair will operate Monday through Friday beginning Sept. 12.

The Blair DRC, located at the Washington County Court House, 1555 Colfax St., Blair, NE, 68008, will have its last Saturday service hours on Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Survivors may continue to visit the Blair DRC Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice.

Counties designated for assistance are Boyd, Burt, Cass, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Knox, Lincoln, Nemaha, Richardson, Sarpy and Washington. Flood survivors may visit any DRC location for assistance.

Before visiting a center, people with flood-related losses should register with FEMA even if they have applied for assistance with the USDA, filed a claim with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, received assistance from local voluntary agencies, or have called the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) hotline to report their damage.

Register with FEMA by calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). Help is available in most languages. Those with speech or hearing disability may call **(TTY) 800-462-7585**. Persons affected by the floods also may apply for federal assistance through a web-enabled mobile device or smartphone. Visit [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov) and follow the link to "apply online for federal assistance."

#### **Have the following information ready when you call to register:**

- Social Security number
- Current and pre-disaster address
- Description of losses caused by disaster
- Contact information where FEMA can reach you
- Total household income
- Insurance information
- Banking information (including account number if you want direct fund deposits)
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The Disaster Recovery Centers are staffed by experts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) providing loan information for individuals, renters and businesses, as well as other agencies. They will explain disaster assistance programs and help flood survivors.

For small businesses, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

SBA applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at **800-659-2955**, or (TTY) **800-877-8339**, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).

### **NEW Disaster Recovery Center Re-Opens for Sarpy and Cass Counties**

A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) operated by the state of Nebraska, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), is scheduled to re-open Monday in Bellevue to serve Sarpy and Cass counties.

The DRC will be open at the Bellevue Fire Department Training Center, 3100 Cornhusker Road, Bellevue, Neb. 68123, for four days:

- Monday, Sept. 12, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Counties designated for assistance are Boyd, Burt, Cass, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Knox, Lincoln, Nemaha, Richardson, Sarpy and Washington. Flood survivors may visit any DRC location for assistance.

Before visiting a center, people with flood-related losses should register with FEMA even if they have applied for assistance with the USDA, filed a claim with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, received assistance from local voluntary agencies, or have called the NEMA flood hotline to report their damage.

Register with FEMA by calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). Help is available in most languages. Those with speech or hearing disability may call (TTY) **800-462-7585**. Persons affected by the floods also may apply for federal assistance through a web-enabled mobile device or smartphone. Visit [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov) and follow the link to "apply online for federal assistance."

#### **Have the following information ready when you call to register:**

- Social Security number
- Current and pre-disaster address
- Description of losses caused by disaster
- Contact information where FEMA can reach you
- Total household income
- Insurance information
- Banking information (including account number if you want direct fund deposits)

The Disaster Recovery Centers are staffed by experts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) providing loan information for individuals, renters and businesses, as well as other agencies. They will explain disaster assistance programs and help flood survivors.

For small businesses, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

SBA applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at **800-659-2955**, or **(TTY) 800-877-8339**, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).

## DRC schedule

### BOYD COUNTY:

Spencer Fire Department Meeting Room, 100 E. Main St., Spencer

- Tuesday, Sept. 20, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### BURT COUNTY:

City Auditorium, 1315 K St., Tekamah

- Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### CASS/SARPY COUNTY:

Bellevue Fire Dept. Training Center, 3100 Cornhusker Road, Bellevue

- Monday, Sept. 12, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### DAKOTA/DIXON COUNTIES:

City County Law Enforcement Center, 701 W. 29<sup>th</sup> St., South Sioux City

- Friday, Sept. 9, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### DOUGLAS COUNTY:

Omaha Civic Center, Farnam Street Level, 1819 Farnam St., Omaha

- Thursday, Sept. 8, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 9, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### KNOX COUNTY:

Niobrara Fire Hall, 259 Spruce Ave., Niobrara

- Friday, Sept. 16, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY:

Courthouse, 1555 Colfax St., Blair

- Monday – Saturday through Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Monday – Friday beginning Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### **NO CHANGES** Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Recommended Alternate Routes:

**To and from Kansas:** use **Highway 77** out of Lincoln and **Highway 81** out of York.

**Across Nebraska:** I-80 is expected to remain safe and dry route throughout the flooding months.

**Strongly suggested route:** If you are west of York on I-80 and intend to travel north on I-29 at Council Bluffs, consider taking **Highway 81** north at York to I-90 in South Dakota thus avoiding detour traffic in Iowa.

**Avoid Highway 75** because of existing construction projects, lane closures and flood mitigation operations.

**Avoid Highway 77** north of Lincoln because of delays due to bridge construction near Fremont.

**UPDATED Road Closures** Call 511 or check online at [www.roads.ne.gov/flood/](http://www.roads.ne.gov/flood/) or

**Highway 2** is closed from Nebraska City east into Iowa due to water covering the road on the Iowa side.

**Highway 12** east of Verdel to the Niobrara State Park Recreation Road **OPENED** at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, **with a 15-ton weight restriction**. The 15-ton weight restriction on the part of Highway 12 that opened Aug. 23 (Niobrara to Santee Spur) has been **removed**.

**Highway 175** at the Decatur Missouri River Crossing to Iowa is closed due to erosion of the bridge embankment on the Iowa side. Officials will evaluate the erosion and determine if work can be done to enable the bridge to reopen.

**Highway 136** is closed from Brownville east into Missouri due to water topping a levee on the Missouri side.

**Highway 159** is closed from Rulo as it runs east into Missouri. Closure is due to levee break on the Missouri side of Big Lake which resulted in water over the road on the Missouri side.

**I-680** into Iowa is closed due to I-680 in Iowa being covered by flood waters.

**UPDATED River Levels** — The National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service lists four flood stages: Major, Moderate, Flood and Action Stages. Sites at Action Stage or above are:

#### **North Platte River**

**Lewellen, 7.6 feet** – at Flood Stage which is 7.5 to 8.5 feet

**North Platte, 6.44 feet** – at Flood Stage which is 6.2 to 6.4 feet

#### **Platte River**

**Brady, 6.21 feet** – at Action Stage which is 6 to 7.5 feet

#### **Missouri River**

**Verdel, 25.26 feet** – is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 25 to 26 feet,

**Niobrara, 23.55 feet** – is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 23 to 24 feet

**Decatur, 33.53 feet** – is at Action Stage which is 33 to 35 feet

**Blair, 26.63 feet** – is at Flood Stage which is 26.5 to 28.5

**Omaha, 29.11 feet** – is at Flood Stage which is 29 to 32 feet

**Plattsmouth, 28.26 feet** – is at Flood Stage which is 26 to 31 feet

**Nebraska City, 19.66 feet** – is at Flood Stage which is 18 to 23 feet,

**Brownville, 34.92 feet** – is at Flood Stage which is 33 to 37 feet

**Rulo, 21.92 feet** – is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 21 to 25.6 feet



[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

[List of Nebraska Local Health Departments](#)